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Contact: Rep. Deb Andraca 608-266-0486

Rep. Deb Andraca Supports Governor Evers' Vision for Education Governor Evers and Superintendent Underly Prioritize Resources for Students' Success

Madison, Wis. -- Representative Deb Andraca (D–Whitefish Bay) joined Governor Evers and State Superintendent of Education Jill Underly this morning at Milwaukee Public Schools' Academy of Accelerated Learning as they announced their <u>education priorities for the 2023-2025 state budget</u>.

The proposal includes funding to improve reading and literacy outcomes, enhance school meal programs and expand mental health services, improve financial literacy curriculum, and support before and after-school programming. The budget plan also includes an increase in per pupil and special education aids, as well as a change in state law that would allow retired teachers the opportunity to return to classrooms.

Representative Andraca issued the following statement supporting the proposal:

"A budget is a statement of values, and this morning the Governor and Superintendent Underly signaled their ongoing commitment and dedication to Wisconsin's students. As a teacher and as a parent, I believe it is more important than ever to invest in our students' success.

"Public schools strive to meet the needs of every student, every day. But currently, the state reimburses about 29% of special education services, leaving districts with the challenge of meeting the rest of the funding. Today's budget proposal would help <u>all</u> students by increasing special education reimbursement to 45 percent in the first year of the biennium and 90 percent in the second."

Rep. Andraca continued, "The Governor and Superintendent also recognize that we need sustainable funding so districts can plan for the future. I welcome their proposal to raise revenue limits for school districts by \$350 per pupil in the first year, and \$650 per pupil in the second year while keeping property taxes stable. Revenue limits serve an important function, and they should be balanced between keeping our tax burden in check and providing all students what they need to thrive."

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